

**MINUTES
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
April 8, 2008**

Present at the meeting that was held at the Town Building were Chairman Stephen Dungan and Selectmen Kathleen Farrell, Thomas Ruggiero and Ellen Sturgis.

Selectman Jason Robart was absent.

Also present were Town Administrator William Wrigley and Administrative Assistant Susan McLaughlin.

Chairman Dungan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Public Input

None.

Chairman's Comments

None.

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Wrigley reported that he continues to work with the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority (MART), the Council on Aging, and the state departments of Revenue and Transportation on clarifying MART services to Stow and executing a contract.

BOSE Traffic Light Transfer to the Town

Representatives from Bose Corporation visited the Board to transfer ownership of the Great Road traffic signals to the Town, as stated in a special permit from the Planning Board. The Planning Board, Superintendent of Streets, and Police Chief recommended the Board accept the signal and, after a brief discussion, the Board voted and executed the agreement.

Town Administrator's Report, continued.

Mr. Wrigley updated the Board on the Town's three on-going court cases: Cingular v. Planning Board, Parker at al v. Town of Stow, and Collings v. Planning Board.

Lastly, he said the search group for the new Fire Chief began interviewing eight candidates.

Meeting Minutes

March 11, 2008: Ms. Sturgis moved to accept the March 11 minutes, as amended; Mr. Ruggiero seconded; and all voted in favor.

March 25, 2008: Ms. Farrell moved to accept the March 25 minutes, as amended; Ms. Sturgis seconded; and all voted in favor.

Assabet River Water Study Representation

Two members of the Conservation Commission, Chair Ingeborg Hegemann Clark and Becky Mattison visited the Board to be appointed to represent Stow on the MA DEP Assabet River Water Study. Stow wants to participate in discussion of possible decisions regarding the Ben Smith dam and one at the Gleasondale mills.

Ms. Farrell moved to appoint Ingeborg Hegemann Clark as the Town's representative to the Assabet River Water Study; Ms. Sturgis seconded; and all voted in favor.

Ms. Sturgis moved to appoint Becky Mattison as the alternate representative; Mr. Ruggiero seconded; and all voted in favor.

Snow Property Project Update

Bob Wilber, representing the project working group, updated the Board on progress. He said he did not recommend signing the Purchase and Sales Agreement at this time, as planned, because it might change. Bose met with Town officials (Mssrs. Dungan, Wrigley, Dodd, and Wilber) and DEP representatives to seek to expand its Zone 1 wellhead for its well that abuts the Snow property. The radius extends somewhere between 12 to 100 feet onto the Snow property. This could have a significant impact on the recreation land layout. The issue is being investigated.

Letter of Support for Open Space and Recreation Plan

As requested by the Open Space and Recreation Committee, the Board agreed to write a letter of support for the current revision of the Open Space and Recreation Plan. The plan, two years in revision, will make Stow eligible for several state grants, as well as guiding open space effort in town. Mr. Dungan drafted a letter for the Board's use.

Ms. Sturgis moved to send a letter in support of the Open Space and Recreation Plan to the pen Space Committee chair; Mr. Ruggiero seconded; and all voted in favor.

Warrant Article and Ballot Question on NRSD Track Borrowing

Nashoba Regional Assistant Superintendent George King and Stow NRSD committee member Brian Burke joined the meeting to discuss a warrant article regarding Stow's vote on school district borrowing for a new high school track and fields.

Mr. Wrigley opened the discussion saying that the Town received notice the previous Thursday that the school district voted to approve borrowing \$1.28M to finance the project. The member towns now have 60 days to vote their disapproval, should they choose to exercise that option.

He outlined the Board's options, as he and Bond Counsel Roger Vacco saw them, and recommended using a warrant article and debt exclusion ballot question if the Board wished to permit Town Meeting to vote on the question. Mr. King said he disagreed with Stow's opinion on how to structure the vote. The selectmen said they took issue with the last-minute notice and the lack of detail on the project and costs.

Superintendent Michael Wood joined the meeting in progress.

Ms. Sturgis moved to open the warrant and add an article related to disapproval of borrowing for an artificial turf field for the high school for the debt exclusion amount with corresponding language that it is contingent on the debt exclusion. Mr. Wrigley read the proposed warrant article and Ms. Sturgis amended her motion to use Mr. Wrigley's wording. Ms. Farrell seconded and all voted in favor.

Warrant Article and Ballot Question on Fire Truck Purchase or Refurbishment

Mr. Wrigley read the proposed ballot question on borrowing to finance a fire truck. Ms. Farrell moved to include the debt exclusion question, as read, on the ballot; Ms. Sturgis seconded; and all voted in favor.

Ms. Farrell moved to close the warrant; Ms. Sturgis seconded; and all voted in favor.

Stow Assabet Valley Rail Trail Project Update

Four members of the Town's Rail Trail committee visited the Board to update members on the project's progress. Ross Perry, John Sangermano, Ralph Fuller, and Kirk Teska. Chair Don Rising was unable to attend.

Mr. Perry said there are several options for routes and the final route has not been chosen. The committee has an article on the Town Meeting warrant to exercise the Town's option on a section of Track Road, which expires on July 1, 2009. Several Rail Trail members recommended exercising the option now because it would be valuable regardless of the eventual route. Mr. Teska, however, said he favored knowing the full route before purchasing pieces. He also expressed concern that he was usually the sole dissenting voice on the committee.

MAPC Transportation Finance Reform Recommendations

Ms. Sturgis reported that MAGIC, Stow's regional group within MAPC, sees a need for a paradigm shift in the state's transportation strategy. Examples are raising the gas tax and/or charging user fees for mileage and dedicating the funds to transportation improvements.

MAPC wants to identify priorities in the member towns and she will send the information to the Board for their review and prioritization.

Liaison Reports

Mr. Dungan reported that the Master Plan would kick into high gear with the upcoming joint boards meeting and public forum.

Ms. Sturgis reported that the Mass School Building Assn (MSBA) recently recommended moving Stow from the "Regionalization" category into the "Invite for Feasibility Study" category. In response, Stow is collecting information for the MSBA's next meeting in May.

Ms. Farrell reported that Capital Planning hopes to vote on the remaining Town Meeting capital items at its upcoming meeting. Regarding the Affordable Housing Trust, she said they are issuing an RFP for buildings suitable for affordable housing.

At 9:37 p.m., Ms. Sturgis moved to adjourn; Ms. Farrell seconded; and all voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan McLaughlin
Administrative Assistant, Board of Selectmen

Approved as written, April 22, 2008